

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A component placement machine ~~with~~ comprising:

a frame; ~~and with~~

a transport device for transporting printed circuit boards in an X-direction[[,]];

~~which transport device comprises~~ at least one transport beam that extends ~~extending~~ in the X-direction, ~~which whereby the~~ beam can be driven in the X-direction in a reciprocating movement[[,]];

~~characterized in that the transport device is provided with a~~ clamping means mechanism connected to the transport beam for clamping in at least one lateral edge that extends ~~extending~~ in the X-direction of the printed circuit boards to be transported[[,]]; and

~~and in that the device is further provided with a~~ supporting means mechanism connected to the frame for supporting two lateral edges on both sides of the printed circuit boards, ~~which whereby the~~ clamping mechanism is ~~means can be brought placed~~ into an active clamping position such that the clamping mechanism is ~~means are~~ active during the movement of the transport beam in the positive X-direction and ~~can be brought is placed~~ in a ~~rest position~~ resting position during ~~the returning~~ return of the transport beam in the negative X-direction, such that while the clamping mechanism is at rest in which rest position of the ~~clamping means~~ the printed circuit boards are ~~being supported by the supporting means~~ mechanism.

2. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the clamping means mechanism ~~comprise~~ comprises:

a fixed jaw portion, which cooperates with an upper side of the printed circuit board;

and

a moveable jaw portion, which is movable in a Z-direction toward to the fixed jaw portion to cooperate with a lower side of the printed circuit board and which is movable away from the fixed jaw portion to release the printed circuit board.

3. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fixed jaw portion comprises a ~~number~~ plurality of clamping elements ~~which that~~ extend in an X-direction; each clamping element positioned behind the other. one behind the other.

4. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each of the plurality of clamping ~~elements~~ element comprises a leaf spring.

5. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to claim 2, ~~claim 2-4,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transport device comprises a bed of supporting pins, that are configured to move simultaneously with ~~movable simultaneously with the~~ movable jaw portion.

6. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the supporting ~~means~~ mechanism comprises two ridges extending in the X-direction.

7. (Currently amended) A component placement machine according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the distance between the ridges is adjustable.

8. (Currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ for transporting a printed circuit board ~~board~~ comprising the steps of: ~~with respect to a frame by means of a transport beam in an X-direction~~

moving a printed circuit board by means of a transport beam, whereby at least one printed circuit board is moved by means of the transport beam from an initial position in a positive X-direction to a predetermined position[[,]];

~~after which lowering~~ the transport beam is lowered with respect to the printed circuit board in a negative Z-direction over a predetermined distance[[.]];

~~moving~~ the transport beam is moved in the negative X-direction to the initial position; and

~~moving~~ the transport beam is moved up again in the positive Z-direction over the predetermined distance whereby characterized in that the movement of the transport beam in the negative X-direction as well as the Z-direction is ~~partly~~ occurs simultaneously.

9. (Currently amended) A method for transporting a printed circuit board according to claim 8, wherein Method according to claim 8, characterized in that the movement of the transport beam in the negative X-direction is ~~started~~ begins as soon as the transport beam has been moved in the negative Z-direction over a safety distance but before the transport beam has been moved in the negative Z-direction over the predetermined distance.

10. (Currently amended) A method for transporting a printed circuit board according to claim 8, wherein Method according to claim 8, characterized in that the movement of the transport beam in the positive Z-direction is ~~started~~ begins before the transport beam is at the initial position in the X-direction ~~but only and wherein only~~ after the transport beam has reached the initial X-position ~~is~~ the transport beam ~~will moved~~ moved from a safety distance to the initial position in Z-direction.

11. (Currently amended) A method for transporting a printed circuit board according to claim 9, wherein Method according to one of the preceding claims 9 or 10, characterized in that the safety distance is adjustable.